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CONTENTS

USSR National Affairs

Vol III No 083 *30 Apr 86*

POLITICAL & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Reportage on Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Accident ..... R 1
'Preliminary Data' on Accident *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Apr]* ..... R 1
'Stimulator' Damaged ..... R 1
Official Confirmation of Date *[AFP]* ..... R 1
Fire 'Cannot be Extinguished' *[DPA]* ..... R 1
Graphite Rods Probably Burning *[AFP]* ..... R 1
'Two Reactors Exploded' *[AFP]* ..... R 2
Reactor Damaged During Cleaning *[TANJUG]* ..... R 2
Help Sought From Sweden, FRG *[AFP]* ..... R 2
FRG, French Offer Help *[AFP]* ..... R 2
Thousands Reported Evacuated *[AFP]* ..... R 3
Residents Near Accident Evacuated *[Stockholm]* ..... R 3
Deaths Reported in Chernobyl *[NHK]* ..... R 3
Ham Operator Says Countless Dead *[AFP]* ..... R 3
Up to 300 Dead Reported *[AFP]* ..... R 4
People Reported Calm *[Stockholm]* ..... R 4
Travelers Report No Sign of Disaster *[Vienna]* ..... R 4
Finns Near Accident Report Nothing *[Helsinki]* ..... R 4
Monument Unveiled Near Accident ..... R 5
Kiev-Area Bicycle Races Extended ..... R 5
Swedish Embassy Promised Answers *[Stockholm]* ..... R 5
IAEA Notified of Accident *[TANJUG]* ..... R 5
No Details Given IAEA *[AFP]* ..... R 5
IAEA Never Inspected Plant *[AFP]* ..... R 5
UN Official Urges More Details *[AFP]* ..... R 6
Chernobyl Plant Described *[Budapest Television Service]* ..... R 6
Swedish Expert Describes Reactor *[Stockholm]* ..... R 6
Earthquake Occurs in Azerbaijan; No Damage Reported ..... R 6
Gromyko Chairs Routine Presidium Session *[PRAVDA 26 Apr]* ..... R 6
Gromyko Addresses Moscow Awards Ceremony ..... R 7
Demichev Addresses Academy of Arts Session *[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 17 Apr]* ..... R 7
Shcherbitskiy Attends Lenin Anniversary Meeting *[PRAVDA UKRAINY 22 Apr]* ..... R 9
Azerbaijan Science Academy Holds Annual Meeting ..... R 9
Azerbaijan Commissions Meet on Educational Work ..... R 9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

PRAVDA Editorial Examines New Management Style *[28 Apr]* ..... S 1
Officials Comment on Far East Development Prospects ..... S 2
Maslennikov Previews Development ..... S 2
Lowered Oil Prices Effect on Exports Examined ..... S 2
Briefs: Gold Extraction Industry ..... S 3
New Airport
Working Day 11 May
Dump Truck for Siberia

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Progress of Spring Sowing Campaign Reviewed *[Osychkin in SELSKAYA ZHIZN 25 Apr]* ..... T 1
Agricultural Developments for 23-24 April Reported ..... T 2

Reportage on Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Accident

'Preliminary Data' on Accident

PM301004 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 86 Second Edition p 1

["From the USSR Council of Ministers" — *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA* headline]

[Text] As has already been reported in the press, an accident has taken place at the Chernobyl nuclear power station 130 kilometers north of Kiev. A government commission headed by Boris Scherbina, a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, is working on the spot [na meste]. It includes the heads of ministries and departments and leading scientists and specialists.

According to preliminary data, the accident took place in one of the areas of the fourth power-generating unit and resulted in destruction of part of the structural elements of the building housing the reactor, damage to the reactor, and a certain leak of radioactive substances. The three other power-generating units have been shut down; they are in order in the operational reserve. Two persons were killed during the accident.

Priority measures have been taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident. The radiation situation at the electric power station and the adjacent territory has now been stabilized [Moscow World Service in English at 1800 GMT on 29 April in a similar report uses the phrase "has now fallen off"] and the necessary medical aid is being given to those affected. The inhabitants of the nuclear power station's settlement and three nearby populated localities have been evacuated.

The state of the radiation situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and the adjacent territory is being monitored continuously.

'Stimulator' Damaged

GF291254 Baku International Service in Azeri 1200 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] The Soviet Government has issued a report in Moscow on the accident that has occurred in the Ukrainian SSR's Chernobyl nuclear power plant. One of the stimulators [muharrik] has been damaged. The results of the accident are being removed and those who have suffered are being helped. This is the first accident in the nuclear power plants in the Soviet Union. A government committee has been set up to investigate the causes of the accident.

Official Confirmation of Date

AU301048 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Helsinki, April 30 (AFP) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry told Finland on Wednesday that the Ukraine nuclear accident occurred Saturday, the Finnish news agency reported here. The ministry told the Finnish ambassador that no special precautions were planned to protect the local population, although radiation levels were "higher than usual".

The Foreign Ministry statement cited here was the first official confirmation of the date of the nuclear accident at the Chernobyl plant north of Kiev.

The Soviet ministry told the ambassador that radiation levels "around the place" of the accident were "higher than usual", but that "the authorities do not envisage special measures to protect the (local) population", the agency said.

Fire 'Cannot be Extinguished'

LD291443 Hamburg DPA in German 1408 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, 29 Apr (DPA) — According to information available in Bonn, the reactor core of the Soviet nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, near Kiev, has melted down for as yet unknown reasons. Such an accident is described as a super-MCA in nuclear safety terminology.

Reports say that the graphite, which has caught fire and which is needed for the process of nuclear fission, cannot be extinguished by normal means but only by starving it completely of air. As long as the fire is not under control, further chain reactions will take place with the release of radioactivity.

The research ministry pointed out that the best information about dealing with such an accident is to be found at the Juelich nuclear research plant. The ministry emphasized that currently there is no danger to the FRG.

Graphite Rods Probably Burning

AU291551 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Paris, April 29 (AFP) — The unexplained "accident" at the Soviet Chernobyl nuclear plant Monday probably ignited the graphite control rods that slow the pace of nuclear fission at the reactor's core, experts here said Tuesday. They said the rods probably caught fire under tremendous temperatures produced when part of the reactor core fused.

Jean Petit, deputy director of the Nuclear Protection and Surety Institute of the French Atomic Energy Commission, said such a fire could spread to hundreds of tons of graphite in the reactor core and last several days.

That hypothesis was supported by Soviet requests to Sweden and West Germany on Tuesday for information and expertise on the control of nuclear plant fires.

Unless contained, the destruction of the graphite rods could in principle lead to a "meltdown," the most serious nuclear plant mishap, in which temperatures rising uncontrolled eventually melt the reactor core. West German nuclear experts were quoted late Tuesday as saying a total meltdown had already occurred at the Chernobyl reactor, 150 km (90 miles) north of Kiev in the Ukraine, but those reports could not be confirmed.

Mr. Petit said the use of classic firefighting techniques to control a reactor fire could trigger unpredictable chemical reactions with results that might include an increase in radioactive material and

its release into the environment.

Mr. Petit said levels of radioactivity around the plant should not go above those already recorded, but that the fire could continue the high levels over a longer period of time. He said that, given the circumstances and the type and intensity of the escaped radiation, the best thing the Soviet authorities could do would be to confine residents within a 20 km (12 mile) radius of the plant to their homes.

One aggravating factor in the Chernobyl incident is the lack of a thick reinforced concrete containment shell, a form of which is part of most of the world's nuclear plants, including most in the Soviet Union.

It was such a concrete shell that prevented the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania from turning into a disaster after two-thirds of the reactor core melted down.

The concrete shell contained virtually all the radioactivity released by the meltdown, and contains it still in a sealed off concrete vault.

The Chernobyl nuclear plant has no such protection against release of radioactivity, the experts said.

'Two Reactors Exploded'

HK300250 Hong Kong AFP in English 0229 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Helsinki, April 29 (Afp) — More than 25,000 people were evacuated last weekend from the area around the damaged Soviet nuclear plant at Chernobyl, according to Finnish tourists returning here Tuesday and quoting their Soviet guide. Ritva Eloranta, interviewed on television, also quoted the group's guide as saying in Kiev on Sunday morning that "two reactors exploded 160 kms (100 miles) from here, but we are in no danger."

Western scientists believe the nuclear accident occurred on Saturday, though it was not reported by Soviet officials until Monday. Chernobyl is some 150 kms north of Kiev in the Ukraine. Mrs Eloranta said that "life appeared to be normal in Kiev Sunday morning."

A Finnish businessman who was in Kiev on Monday said on returning here that the situation there "appeared to be normal."

Reactor Damaged During Cleaning

LD291716 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1654 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr (TANJUG) — The TANJUG correspondent in Moscow rang up Kiev tonight. He was told that at the moment there is no fear of intensified radiation or panic in the city following the accident involving the Chernobyl nuclear plant which is about 130 kms from the Ukrainian capital city.

Well-informed domestic sources claim that the accident happened when the reactors were stopped for cleaning. When that was being done one of the reactors was damaged mechanically. Measures are being taken to halt the radiation. Safety measures have been taken, that is to say, the population has been evacuated.

Help Sought From Sweden, FRG

AU291250 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Stockholm, April 29 (AFP) — The Soviet Embassy here on Tuesday asked Swedish authorities for all their "experience and knowledge" on the control of fires in graphite type nuclear power plants, the Swedish Foreign Ministry said. The ministry spokesman said Sweden was unable to help since its four nuclear plants are of another type. He said the Soviet request was made to the Swedish Institute for Protection Against Radioactivity, and the Inspector- General for Nuclear Reactors.

A Scandinavian correspondent in Bonn reported that the Soviet Union had made a similar request of West German authorities.

FRG, French Offer Help

AU291545 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Bonn, April 29 (AFP) — The Soviet Embassy here has asked the West German energy information centre Atomforum to provide help in fighting the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine, near Kiev, the centre said. It was one of a number of distress calls from the Soviet Union on Tuesday. At least two West German nuclear research institutes are reported to have responded to the Soviet request.

West German experts said graphite fires of this type are rare and therefore hard to control. They said it seemed the core of the nuclear reactor had melted down, the worst possible accident which can happen in a nuclear plant.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in New Delhi, where he is on a visit, that his country was prepared to help the Soviet Union with the consequences of the accident. The West German Government has not received any official call for help from the Soviet authorities, a government source in Bonn said.

In Paris Francois Cogne, head of the Nuclear Protection and Safety Institute of the Atomic Energy Commission offered French aid in the form of advice, and files on graphite type reactors in the seven French plants.

His deputy Jean Petit said that the French offer included medical treatment for personnel at the damaged plant who may have been contaminated by radiation. France had considerable experience in the field and had treated people suffering from radiation over a number of years.

Soviet requests for help began to come in on Tuesday, the day after Moscow, in a terse and imprecise announcement, reported an accident at the plant at Chernobyl, 150 kms (90 miles) north of Kiev. Soviet authorities, normally reticent about admitting to such accidents, were believed to have been forced into doing so after a sharp rise in radioactivity levels in neighboring countries.

Thousands Reported Evacuated

AU291339 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 29 (AFP) — The Soviet Union Tuesday asked Western countries for help in fighting the Chernobyl disaster as it set up a security zone around the damaged nuclear plant and evacuated tens of thousands of people, Western sources said here Tuesday.

The Western sources here said the security zone around the plant in the Ukraine had a radius of 30 kilometers (19 miles), but that the nearby city of Kiev, 133 kms (83 miles) to the south and the Soviet Union's third largest, was not threatened. Inside the security zone are the village of Chernobyl and the new satellite city of Pripiat, built for the plant's staff, and which had 30,000 inhabitants in 1980.

Residents Near Accident Evacuated

LD291231 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] We now go over to Moscow for the latest Soviet news on the accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine. A large area around the plant has been evacuated. In Kiev, population 1 million, about 10 miles from Chernobyl, life continues normally. Elisabeth Medborg reports:

Information on what exactly happened in the town of Chernobyl in northern Ukraine is still very scarce and contradictory. However, very well-informed sources told me just now that all the people in a radius of 30 km from the scene of the accident have been evacuated. The evacuation took place yesterday, according to information, and the people have been transferred to, quote: to other locations. These pieces of information coincide with other pieces of information that say a large number of trucks were seen yesterday moving northwards from Kiev, capital of the Ukraine. Also, there are no buses available for ordinary city traffic because, presumably, they are being used to evacuate the residents of Chernobyl. My sources also reported that the special government committee, which was appointed, has given its first report, according to which the situation in the area is said to be calm. On the other hand, no one knows yet how many dead or injured there are.

The information that I and other Western colleagues here in Moscow have been able to get from Kiev, which is situated only a few miles south of the disaster area, indicates that life at least there goes on as normal, even though the accident happened practically right next door to the city.

The Soviet public still does not know anything more of what has occurred than what was said last night on Soviet TV news. Generally, people here have a very poor understanding of nuclear power and the possible risks involved with it. This could be one of the reasons why panic has evidently not occurred — in any case in Kiev. This is Elisabeth Medborg in Moscow.

Deaths Reported in Chernobyl

OW291320 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpt] In connection with the reported Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, NHK Moscow correspondent Kobayashi has filed the following report:

[Begin recording] The Soviet Union, responding to queries from Sweden and other North European countries that had monitored radioactivity, made a brief announcement on the night of 28 April acknowledging that there had been an accident. However, television and radio broadcasts have since kept silent on this subject. The Atomic Energy Committee has been refusing to answer queries, while information agencies say they do not know when the next announcment will be forthcoming on this issue. Consequently, there is no overall picture of the accident available at the moment.

Located 130 km south of Chernobyl is Kiev, capital city of the Ukraine with a population of 2.5 million. The airline service between Moscow and Kiev remains normal with seven flights daily. According to reports from tourist bureau officials in Kiev, while they cannot receive foreigners because there are no vacancies in hotels, one can see no major changes at least in the daily life of the citizens.

On the other hand, however, experts say that Chernobyl is a city situated on the coast of the Kiev reservoir built by damming the Dnieper River and therefore, it is quite possible that the accident will result in water pollution. [end recording]

Meanwhile, an official of Kiev city, which is close to Chernobyl, said in a telephone conversation with the KYODO Moscow bureau on 29 April that deaths [shisha] had been reported in the accident.

Nuclear power generating accounts for 9 percent of the total electricity output in the Soviet Union. Because of the sluggish oil production, however, the Soviet Government has a plan to bring it up to 30 percent over a 15-year period. It seems to be inevitable that the Chernobyl accident will have an impact on Soviet plans to strengthen nuclear power generating programs.

Ham Operator Says Countless Dead

AU301020 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The Hague, April 30 (AFP) — The Chernobyl nuclear accident "certainly caused hundreds of deaths, perhaps many, many more," and led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, a Soviet radio enthusiast in the Kiev region told a Japanese radio ham on Tuesday. The conversation, picked up on short-wave by Dutchman Annis Kofman, in the northern Dutch town of Bergen, said radiation levels are so high that rescue teams are unable to enter the disaster zone to pick up the bodies.

"Tens and tens of thousands of people and cattle" are being evacuated from the region, the Soviet man said. Water and food were also in short supply because of contamination.

Two reactors of the four-reactor plant at Chernobyl have been "totally destroyed" by a "meltdown", he said. A meltdown means that a reactor overheats through catastrophic failure of its coolant system and burns through its own foundations. Several loud explosions have been heard since the disaster occurred, he added.

"The world has no idea of the catastrophe — help us," he said.

Up to 300 Dead Reported

AU300933 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Excerpt] London, April 30 (AFP) — Up to 300 people have died in the Chernobyl disaster, and Kiev authorities have set aside part of the city to accommodate casualites, a British teacher living in the Ukraine capital was quoted here Wednesday as saying. Rhona Branson, telephoned by THE TIMES' correspondent in Moscow, said the toll was given to her by "local citizens with contacts in the energy ministry."

"I was told that fleets of buses had been seen driving north to the area on the Saturday night, to evacuate people living close to the site" of the accident, 130 kilometers (90 miles) from Kiev," she said. "In the last 24 hours, reports of the seriousness of things have started to filter through," she said.

"It is all very frightening," said Miss Branson, a 29-year-old Scotswoman who has been living in Kiev since September. "I just do not know if there are things that I should be doing now to protect my health — I hope that soon I will be getting some official information."

People Reported Calm

LD301219 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Almost all the questions on the nuclear power disaster in Chernobyl remain unanswered in the Soviet Union. The authorities stay silent and it seems that no preventive health measures are being taken in the affected areas in the Ukraine and Belorussia. Here is a report from Moscow by Elisabeth Hedborg:

The AP news agency today quotes a Dutch radio ham who listened to a radio conversation in the Chernobyl area. According to that report, many hundreds of people have been killed and injured in the area. The conversation was picked up late last night and it indicates that thousands of people are now fleeing south. According to this information, many of the dead cannot be traken away because of the radiation danger.

However, all the available information here in Moscow indicates that the situation in the area further away from the immediate disaster site is calm so far. I phoned Minsk, capital of the Belorussian republic, about 400 km northwest of the disaster area today. My acquaintance says that the situation in the city is calm. We know what has happened, but we are not alarmed, she said. In view of the wind direction at the time of the disaster, Minsk was the first big city that the radioactive emission passed over during the weekend. There is no alarm in Kiev either; I have been in touch with a family with close relatives in Kiev. These relatives urged their relatives here in Moscow not to be alarmed. We know that some kind of explosion has taken place, but you must not be alarmed, said the relatives in Kiev. The local population in Kiev were evidently given some kind of information before the first official bulletin was read on Monday evening.

Today, the scientific attaches of Western embassies here in Moscow have met to try to build up a picture of what happened. First and foremost, they had to note the total lack of information. Despite a number of reminders on their part, they have not learned anything from individual Soviet authorities.

One interesting fact is that there are 14 reactors of the type concerned in the USSR. Two were built in the past year; 4 of the 14 are in Chernobyl. However, there is nothing yet to indicate that the remaining 10 have been closed. It is stated that the fuel core in the disaster site consisted of 192 tons [as heard] of uranium and the critical question that nobody can answer yet is whether the base of the reactor vessel can withstand the colossal pressure it is now exposed to.

Travelers Report No Sign of Disaster

AU291143 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1010 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Austrian radio correspondent Franz Koessler report from Moscow]

[Excerpts] When the first travelers from the Ukrainian capital arrived in Moscow this morning they described an idyllic picture of the situation there. There were no indications in Kiev of a nuclear disaster. But it seems that it was a very close thing, because the nuclear power plant of Chernobyl where the accident took place is only about 50 km north of the Kiev conurbation where 3.5 million people live. If strong winds from the southeast had not blown the radioactive cloud over also densely populated Belorussia, the Baltic republics, and Poland to Scandinavia, the disaster might have taken on inconceivable dimensions.

Today's papers do not mention the incident, they did not even publish the Council of Ministers communique. The Committee for Nuclear Energy, which yesterday denied the incident for hours when urgently questioned by the Scandinavian embassies, is equally close-mouthed today. It does not have anything to add to the official statement, it affirmed. The Swedish ambassador and his Danish colleague did not receive any additional information when they personally called on the Foreign Ministry.

Finns Near Accident Report Nothing

LD290910 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0800 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] The radiation level in Finland caused by the accident at the Soviet nuclear power station is falling. The National Radiation Safety Center says that the highest levels were measured last night after 2100. During the night the levels have decreased steadily. According to the radiation safety center the situation is helped by the northeasterly winds which are clearing the air. The

accident at the Chernobyl power plant near Kiev increased the level of radiation in the Nordic countries. The levels measured in Finland were six times higher than normal. The increase was not, however, high enough to endanger human beings.

Near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near Kiev is the Lemminkaeinen Oy building site [Finnish construction company], where at the moment about 50 Finns are working. Lemminkaeinen told us that they have not been able to make contact with the personnel at the building site after news of the accident reached Finland. Contact was last made with the Finns yesterday at which point the Finns in the area did not report any kind of special arrangements in the town. There are also several Finnish students in Kiev. According to information received this morning, a couple of other Finnish companies may have some employees in Kiev. Because of the civil servants' strike, contact can only be made with the USSR by telex. It is possible, however, to telephone from the USSR to Finland.

Monument Unveiled Near Accident
LD300958 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Inhabitants of Yvshgorodskiy Rayon, Kiev Oblast, will today be congregating in their rayon center [Vyshgorod] for the festive unveiling of a monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The bronze figure towers up on Vyshgorod's main square, which bears the name of the leader. While the monument was going up and neighboring areas were being equipped with public amenities a good many voluntary Saturday and Sunday labor days were held, which were attended by virtually all town residents, adults, and schoolchildren. Lenin Square has become a new center of ancient Vyshgorod. A house of culture and a stadium equipped with swimming pools on the banks of the Dnieper will soon be opened here. [Vyshgorod is slightly to the north of Kiev, at the southern end of the Kiev reservoir; Chernobyl is situated at the northern end of this reservoir]

Kiev-Area Bicycle Races Extended
LD301001 Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Kiev April 30 TASS — The competitions of Soviet cyclists in Kiev, which are qualifying races before the "Peace Cycle Race" that starts here on May 6, have been extended for two more days — up to May 1. Two bunch races will be run on the streets in Kiev today and tomorrow, following which Aleksandr Gusyatnikov, senior coach of the USSR national team, will determine six cyclists for his team.

Swedish Embassy Promised Answers
LD291101 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Information on the accident in the [Soviet] nuclear powerplant is very scarce in the Soviet Union. Apart from a short announcement on TASS, which was read on television last night, the Soviet public has not been informed about the accident in Chernobyl , an official from the Swedish Embassy in Moscow told the TT news agency. The papers in Moscow have not written anything about the accident. The Swedish Embassy has asked a number of questions of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and they have been promised quote: Answers as soon as possible, unquote.

IAEA Notified of Accident
LD291653 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1512 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Vienna, April 29 (TANJUG) — The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been informed about the accident which took place at one of the Soviet nuclear plants near Kiev yesterday. IAEA press spokesman James Daglish said that in reporting the accident at the Chernobyl plant, Soviet ambassador Khlestov did not specify its kind and scope.

The Soviet Union last year signed an agreement with the IAEA placing a number of its nuclear plants under superivision by agency experts, but the agreement did not cover the Chernobyl plant.

No Details Given IAEA
AU301056 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Vienna, April 30 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has so far not given any details of the extent of Chernobyl accident, nor how it happened, to the 112-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a spokesman said here Wednesday. "We would very much like to have some detailed information, but so far we have been told nothing," the IAEA spokesman said.

He noted that there was no treaty laying down that a nuclear accident must be reported to the nuclear watchdog body, even by its 112 member nations, which includes the Soviet Union. The IAEA was told about the accident Monday evening by the Soviet ambassador to Austria, Oleg Khlestov, the spokesman said "although the Soviet Union was not obliged to do so."

In September 1984 Moscow agreed to permit IAEA inspectors to examine some of its reactors for the first time to establish they were being used for peaceful purposes. However the Chernobyl reactors have so far not been inspected, the spokesman said.

IAEA Never Inspected Plant
AU291032 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Vienna, April 29 (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not inspected the reactors at the accident-hit Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union, which is not a member of the body, a spokesman said here Tuesday.

In September 1984 Moscow agreed to permit the control of a certain number of its nuclear plants and equipment to prove they were being used for peaceful purposes. The names of atomic plants and nuclear reactors which could be visited were provided in a secret list, but it is not known whether Chernobyl was on it.

IAEA inspectors went to the Soviet Union for the first time in August 1985 where they examined two reactors, one of them used for experimental purposes. None of the four Chernobyl reactors were seen, an IAEA spokesman said here, pointing out that the Soviet Union was not an IAEA member and therefore never requested a check-up of its security measures.

Walter Binner, director of the Institute for the Safety of Reactors here, said Tuesday that Chernobyl's four reactors were of a relatively rare type, but similar models were known to be at plants at Kursk, Leningrad and Smolensk.

UN Official Urges More Details

AU300858 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Geneva, April 30 (AFP) — The director of the U.N. Environmental Programme (UNEP), Mustafa Tolba, called on the Soviet Union Wednesday to provide all possible details following the Ukraine nuclear accident. He also urged nuclear power producers to make security their No. 1 priority, and to submit to regular inspection.

"Any country which accidentally spills toxics across borders... should have the responsibility" to provide information, he said here. "Unsuspecting people, many of them living in countries which have opted not to have their own nuclear plants, are now wondering if they might become the world's first radiation refugees."

Mr. Tolba added: "Whenever there is a nuclear accident anywhere, it is what we don't know that scares me. Information is always needed to assess immediate and potential damage to people's health and the environment...

"To avoid similar accidents in the future, the world nuclear power generators must make security their first priority and expose their plants to international vigilance and regular inspection as required by the non-proliferation treaty."

Chernobyl Plant Described

LD291838 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now have a live report from Moscow. I asked our Moscow correspondent Mihaly Hardi about yesterday's Soviet nuclear power plant accident. Have you spoken to experts in Moscow about the incident?

[Hardi] Of course, we have tried all day to get more information. What I managed to learn from experts here is that the Chernobyl power plant has four reactors, each with an output of 1,000 megawatts and of the so-called single-circuit type. This is an older model that is no longer manufactured. The principle behind this type of reactor is that the steam generated in the reactor goes directly to the turbines.

Swedish Expert Describes Reactor

LD291510 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1030 GMT 29 Apr 86

[From the "Radio Magazine" program]

[Text] The reactor in Chernobyl in the Ukraine where the accident happened is a light-water reactor using coal, said the National Institute of Radiation Protection today. The type of reactor which [word indistinct] does not exist in Sweden. Head of Information at the Institute of Radiation Protection Sven Loefveberg gives this information to reporter Elle Kaj Hoejeberg:

[Loefveberg] We know very little about the reactor. We have had only one report on the accident itself, and the fact that this reactor contains quite a lot of graphite — that is coal — and is said to be burning.

[Hoejeberg] So what kind of reactor is it?

[Loefveberg] It is a so-called light-water reactor with graphite modification. The moderator is of coal and it is used to stop neutrons. If that is what is burning, then it is undeniably a serious accident.

Earthquake Occurs in Azerbaijan; No Damage Reported

LD301107 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Baku, 30 Apr (TASS) — Today at 0208 Moscow time [2208 GMT, 27 April] an earthquake occurred in Azerbaijan. Its strength in the epicenter, located in the Caspian Sea 50 km southeast of the town of Lenkoran, was 4-5 points. In Lenkoran the earthquake was felt with a strength of up to 4 points, and in the neighboring rayon centers of Masally and Lerik 3 points. There are no casualties or damage.

Gromyko Chairs Routine Presidium Session

PM280756 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 86 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chaired by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was held in the Kremlin 25 April.

The question of the fulfillment of state plan targets for the development of electricity supplies to the countryside and for ensuring electricity savings in the agricultural production of the RSFSR's non-Chernozem Zone was examined. Reports were delivered by I.N. Dmitriyev, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and A.I. Mayorets, USSR minister of power and electrification. A coreport was heard from the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' standing committees on the agro-industrial complex and the power industry, which was delivered by A.F. Ponomarev, chairman of the Soviet of the Union Agro-Industrial Complex Commission. The following members of the

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium spoke at the session: L.N. Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; N.N. Slyunkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee; and V.M. Mishin, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee.

The question of the practice of the examination of deputies' requests, proposals, and comments submitted at sessions of the Moldavian SSR Soviets was then discussed. A report was delivered on this subject by G.G. Dygay, deputy chairman of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Deputy V.K. Kiktenko delivered a report on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies who have studied this practice. Taking part in the discussion of the question were S.M. Mukashev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and N.P. Otke, chairman of Magadan Oblast's Chukotka Okrugispolkom and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Resolutions, which will be published in the press, were adopted on the questions under examination.

Gromyko Addresses Moscow Awards Ceremony

LD282202 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Remarks by Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin on 28 April on the conferment of high state awards to a group of workers — recorded; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Among those who are receiving the awards, I would now like, first and foremost, to greet those who have been honored with the title Twice Hero of Socialist Labor. The worker (Ivan Dmitriyevich Ganchev), has been toiling as a builder for almost 40 years now. He took part in building hundreds of houses and industrial projects, and no matter where he works, everything is done on time and at the highest quality. The life path traversed by the kolkhoz worker (Aleksandr Dmitariyevich Chervikov) progressed this way too. For 30 years he has been continuously working as kolkhoz chairman. This kolkhoz is in the northern zone, where natural conditions are harsh. Nonetheless, it ranks among the best enterprises of the country's agro-industrial complex. The work of both these representatives of the working class and kolkhoz peasantry constitute a vivid example of how the struggle is to be waged for implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. [Video shows Gromyko addressing recipients, reading from notes, shaking hands with recipients]

Demichev Addresses Academy of Arts Session

PM281415 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 17 Apr 86 p 2

[TASS report: "New Horizons of Culture"]

[Text] To create works worthy of the innovative deeds of the party and people, to do everything to enhance exactingness toward the ideological and artistic content of creative work, to satisfy more fully the working people's spiritual needs — that is the civic duty of people working in the sphere of our country's multinational culture. This was stated by the participants in the 42d session of the USSR Academy of Arts, held in Moscow on 16 April.

The session was opened by B.S. Ugarov, president of the USSR Academy of Arts.

A report on "The 27th CPSU Congress and the Tasks of Socialist Culture" was delivered by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture.

The CPSU Central Committee Political Report and the other documents of the congress, which was a major historical event both in our country's domestic life and in international life, he said, gave a profound analysis of the present-day situation in the world and defined the strategic tasks of Soviet society's socioeconomic, political, and spiritual development.

Today more than ever before, the speaker went on, the role of workers in culture and art and the entire spiritual culture of socialism is growing. At a new turning point, the 27th CPSU Congress defined the strategic course of economic policy — the course of accelerating our society's socioeconomic development. The activation of the human factor is a key component of the strategy of acceleration. This redefines the place and role of socialist culture in communist building and makes qualitatively different demands on it.

Culture and art must become an effective weapon for the party in the struggle to establish our society's advanced principles and to enhance the prestige of the working person, innovator, and active fighter for the implementation of party policy. The keenest attention must be directed toward forming conditions that will promote the growth of people's cultural level and the improvement of their professional capabilities and moral qualities.

The party's social policy is becoming increasingly concrete and differentiated. The work of those involved in the multinational socialist culture must also become more concrete, purposeful, and differentiated. It can also do much to help fulfill the tasks posed by the congress in improving socialist democracy and developing self-management principles in society's life. The higher a person's level of culture, the more significant is his desire to take part in the management of the affairs of society and the state and his personal contribution to social progress.

The party seeks the main task of cultural policy in opening up a broad scope for the development of people's abilities and making their life spiritually rich and multifaceted. The state of literature and art now largely determines the moral health and spiritual climate of our society. Hence, the high demands that the party makes on creative activity. Talented works are the main criterion in assessing the work of creative organizations.

Overcoming inertia and stagnation, taking life as the starting point, especially in such a dynamic, multifaceted matter as artistic creativity and amateur artistic activity and the work of clubs, theaters, libraries, and museums — all these are essential

conditions for increasing the effectiveness of the work of cultural workers. In present-day conditions, when more than 155 million people in our country have higher and secondary education, the sphere of culture is called upon to provide the broad masses of working people with the latest scientific and technical information, raise people's spiritual requirements, form a sound moral climate in the labor collectives, and establish new Soviet traditions.

Great opportunities for increasing the activeness of the masses in cultural building are opened up by the decision to create a Soviet Culture Foundation, as well as by the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Measures To Improve the Utilization of Club Institutions and Sports Facilities." The task is to make the masses' movement for a high level of culture universal and nationwide. Here professionals in the arts are called upon to give substantial help. It is necessary to launch a broad movement to create subsidiaries of professional theaters and philharmonic societies and people's picture galleries in the countryside and at clubs and cultural institutes, and to increase patronage by the leading cultural institutions over the main 5-year plan construction projects.

Unfortunately, there has yet to be a radical improvement in the organization of people's leisure. Sometimes a passive attitude on the part of the workers concerned is concealed by talk about the need to strengthen the material base of culture. Yet the funds allocated for building culture and sports facilities, not infrequently, fail to be assimilated. It is necessary to make the most active use of the opportunities opened up by the holding of the All-Union Festival of People's Creativity to mark the 70th anniversary of Great October.

The speaker devoted great attention to the development of the material base of culture. In the 12th 5-Year Plan it is planned to build 511 rayon culture institutes and 5,560 clubs in rural localities. Some R4.2 billion is being allocated for these purposes. The network of parks is to be increased by 4,700 and 900 leisure centers are to be created by the year 2000. This is a large-scale program that must be carried out to a high standard, in light of present and future needs.

There must be a qualitatively new approach toward the problems of museum and library construction. A comprehensive program for developing museum work in the USSR must be elaborated. More active use should be made of all the potential, including the enthusiasm of volunteers and young people, to launch large-scale work to preserve our historical and cultural heritage.

The report expressed gratitude to artists who, following their hearts, have helped create many rural picture galleries by presenting their own works, as well as to private collectors and keepers of artistic works who have given their collections to the country's museums.

The speaker went on to stress that the creative intelligentsia strives to actively help the party in its struggle to establish a truly innovative work style and rid our society of everything that retards the acceleration of progress. Only the first steps are being taken to turn Soviet art toward new topics and new problems of life, he noted. It is necessary to create all the conditions for ensuring that the new subject matter is introduced widely into art, is expressed at a high ideological and artistic standard, moves rapidly onto the stages of theaters and concert halls, and takes a worthy place at artistic exhibitions. Major conclusions must be drawn from the criticisms voiced at the party congress and the public's reactions to ideologically immature and artistically poor works — their "mass production" is today causing serious negative social consequences.

Characterizing the development of Soviet theater, the speaker reported that recently drama and children's theater collectives have produced some 3,500 premieres annually. Compared with the 10th 5-Year Plan, theater audiences have increased by 5 million. The country's theaters have turned toward problem plays touching on the urgent issues of today. At the same time, the speaker drew attention to serious negative trends that have created the need to restructure theater affairs. It has been decided to create a USSR Theater Societies Union, which will promote the further heightening of the creative intelligentsia's activity in the mutual enrichment of national theatrical cultures.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Further Improving Concert Activity in the Country" orients us toward improving musical aesthetic education and cultural services to the working people. The creation of the All-Union Musical Society may be regarded as a powerful lever for spreading a high standard of musical culture among the masses.

P.N. Demichev then dwelt in detail on the new tasks facing the visual arts. Soviet artists, he said, have always borne high the banner of leading art, firmly followed the positions of party-mindedness and popular spirit, and defended the ideals of humanism and peace and the principles of the art of socialist realism actively both in their own creative work and in direct participation in ideological battles with ideological opponents.

At the present stage there is an active process of reapprochement of art with the people's life. Artists' work on the 5-year plan construction sites, on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and in Soviet Army and Navy units is meeting with a broad response. In defining the prospects for the development of artistic creativity, the speaker noted: The task is to comprehend more profoundly the method of socialist realism as applied to the present day, with its complex, sometimes dramatic problems. Otherwise, it is impossible to eradicate superficiality in interpreting the most important topics, poverty of ideas, and formalistic enthusiasms.

Today new yardsticks must be applied to the tasks of architecture, monumental art, and the formation of an aesthetically rich environment around man.

Activity in the sphere of exhibitions needs substantial improvement. It is necessary to reach the most remote parts of the country, actively improve the culture of Siberia, the Far East, and the North, and increase work in the non-Chernozem. Television, movies, and video are still not used enough in the propagandization of the visual arts.

Great attention was devoted to the problems of literary and artistic criticism, which should give assistance on the basis of

goodwill, help improve skill, and rise to the level of lofty artistic generalizations in creative work.

The 27th CPSU Congress, P.N. Demichev said in conclusion, has armed the party and people with a clear understanding of the situation and a precise program of action for the near and remote future. Each of us, in his own sector of work, must do everything in his power to make the congress decisions a reality.

Specific ways of improving the entire sphere of culture and strengthening its influence on forming the Soviet person's active civic stance were discussed by T.T. Salakhov, A.G. Rochegov, V.M. Sidorov, Yu.K. Korolev, A.A. Mylnikov, D.A. Shmarinov, and others. The speakers stressed the need to enrich art with topical, lively content and to improve the artistic standard of works that meet the demands of the times.

The resolution adopted by the session notes that the radical restructuring now taking place in the country requires every artist to participate in a committed way in the people's deeds. The 27th CPSU Congress decisions make it incumbent on the USSR Academy of Arts to develop more actively its activity in overcoming the shortcomings that hamper the development of Soviet visual arts and architecture and to promote in every way a considerable upsurge in Soviet artistic culture.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Lenin Anniversary Meeting

AU280851 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 22 Apr 86 p 3

[RATAU report: "The Cause of Lenin Lives and Triumphs — a solemn Meeting in Kiev on the 116th Anniversary of V.I. Lenin's Birth"]

[Excerpts] On 21 April a solemn meeting of representatives of city and oblast working people and of the garrison troops was held in Kiev to commemorate the 116th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth. Front-ranking production workers, party, war, and labor veterans, scientific and cultural figures, as well as youth gathered in the Ukraine Palace of Culture.

Sitting in the Presidium were Comrades V.V. Shcherbitskiy, Yu.N. Yelchneko, Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, B.V. Kachura, A.P. Lyashko, I.A. Mozgovoy, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, V.A. Ivashko, Yu.A. Kolomiyets, V.D. Kryuchkov, V.A. Masol, S.N. Mukha, Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, along with members of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium and Kiev Gorkom and Obkom Bureaus, prominent people of the capital city, and representatives of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Yu.N. Yelchenko, member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Kiev Gorkom, opened the solemn meeting. The state anthems of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR resounded majestically.

V.S. Shevchenko, member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered a report at the meeting.

Azerbaijan Science Academy Holds Annual Meeting

GF221152 Baku International Service in Azeri 1200 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences has held its annual meeting in Baku. Academician Eldar Salayev, president of the Academy of Sciences, delivered the convocation's opening address. He noted that the institutes of the republic's Academy of Sciences participated in the work carried out last year for the realization of 25 all-union scientific and technical tasks. A total of 70 projects carried out by the scientists of Azerbaijan in the academy, scientific administrations in the field, and universities were included among the appreciated important scientific achievements in the Soviet Union in 1985.

The achievements of a number of the republic's scientists have been on a greater scale. The (?means) they have created for acquiring knowledge have been used in the production of scientific equipment for the study of Halley's Comet within the international Vega experiment. The progress made in science in Azerbaijan during the past 5-year plan period has increased the number of productive forces in the republic and upgraded Azerbaijan's scientific and technical potential.

Azerbaijan Commissions Meet on Educational Work

GF241237 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0105 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] The Education and Science Commission and the Youth Affairs Commission of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet have held a joint scientific meeting. The meeting discussed the work being carried out by the republic's State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education aimed at realizing the tasks derived from the main directions of the reforms being carried out in general education and vocational training schools.

Comrade Ibragimov, chairman of the Education and Science Commission, chaired the meeting. Deputy [name indistinct] briefed the convocation. This was followed by a discussion. The commissions adopted a relevant decision on the matter discussed.

Refiga Kaziyeva, secretary of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, participated in the work of the commissions.

PRAVDA Editorial Examines New Management Style

PM291429 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 86
First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The New Way of Managing"]

[Text] The party has accumulated tremendous experience in implementing major scientific, technical, and socioeconomic transformations in society's life. However, what we have to do in the next three 5-year periods is far in excess of what we have already achieved in both scale and complexity. The essence of the changes in the economy, it was noted at the 27th CPSU Congress, is to shift the center of attention from quantitative indicators to quality and efficiency, from interim results to end results, from the expansion of production assets to their renewal, from the augmentation of fuel and raw material resources to their improved utilization.

Among the practical measures aimed at restructuring national economic management, the party congress put forward the task of transferring sectors of the economy to new economic management methods in the 12th 5-Year Plan and thereby orienting the efforts of all management and production components toward fully utilizing intensive factors for growth, eliminating extravagance, and accelerating scientific and technical progress.

This year enterprises and organizations of more than 100 union and republican ministries and departments are being transferred in full or in part to the new economic management conditions. In the course of preparation for this, many collectives have done considerable organizational and economic work. There has been a quest for reserves, which have been incorporated in draft plans for the 1st year and the whole 5-year plan. Plans have been drawn up for accelerating scientific and technical progress and a preferential rate of increase in new, efficient output has been mapped out. For instance, enterprises and associations of the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building will increase the output of efficient products by 23 percent. At enterprises of the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the production of machines for continuous steel teeming will increase by 22 percent, while the output of two-section diesel freight locomotives will double. The same line, aimed at the rapid renewal of output, is mapped out in the plans of other sectors working under the new conditions. Today it is not advantageous for a collective to manufacture obsolete output: Such output is becoming less profitable compared with top-quality output.

Economic leaders have begun to be bolder in carrying out the modernization and retooling of enterprises; this includes work done using production development funds. Here a noteworthy example is set by the Ternopol Vatra association. This collective's experience shows that the renewal of equipment is the most rapid and economical method of rearming enterprises. Retooling and modernization will now be backed up more fully than before with resources of all kinds and with quotas for subcontracted work.

Improving economic management methods has a positive effect on many indicators of the activity of associations and enterprises. This is indicated by the results of industry's work in the first quarter of the year. Under the new conditions labor collectives seek an increase in output, as a rule, without increasing the numbers of the work force; reduce the outlay in financial resources, labor, and materials for every ruble of finished goods; and focus their attention on qualitative indicators.

Of course, the former economic management methods and the outmoded way of thinking are still having some effect. At a number of ministries the old approaches still prevailed when plans were being set for the 12th 5-year Plan: Demand more resources, take less of the burden of the plan. Not all sector staffs and central departments are adopting a flexible approach to restructuring the style and methods of work. The Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production, for instance, assigned plan targets to the enterprises according to the old system of indicators and was very late in releasing the economic normatives. By no means every collective is oriented toward the fuller utilization of internal reserves and its own resources in retooling production and resolving social problems.

The new way of managing means continuing to improve specific forms and methods of increasing the autonomy and responsibility of associations and enterprises in planning production and increasing its efficiency. The new economic management methods are inconceivable without the comprehensive strengthening of the discipline of output deliveries and a decisive increase in the responsibility of USSR Gossnab organs in this matter, both centrally and locally. It is time to make the transition from words to deeds in establishing direct, long-term economic ties and organizing wholesale trade in the means of production.

The standard of economic activity is determined in many respects by the efficiency of transportation. Since the beginning of this year all the tranport enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of the River Fleet; the Belorussian, Kazakh, Georgian, and Latvian ministries of motor transport; and the Moscow City Soviet Main Administration of Motor Transport have been working in the new way. Now it is up to the railmen. In this sector they should also stop focusing on gross output indicators and ensure prompt deliveries of the entire required range of freight.

In the new 5-year plan collective forms of labor organization and incentives must be further developed. They must be extended to the bigger subunits with a view to gradually combining the development of the team contract at lower levels with full financial autonomy for every association and enterprise. Economic management methods aimed at conserving all types of resources in every way must be elaborated and introduced.

A truly antiexpenditure machinery still has to be developed and implemented. To this end we should be bolder in using economic methods of management, full financial autonomy, and the potential of credit and prices and of the commodity-money relationship; increase the role of profit in the assessment of enterprises' work; and develop socialist enterprise. It is important to continue to persistently seek new ways of increasing production efficiency and production intensification and of deepening the experiment in making things pay for themselves and developing production on the basis of the collective's own, earned resources — that is, through self-financing. Here the experience of the Volga Truck Plant and the Sumi M. Frunze association should be a school of economic management for other associations.

The constant improvement and comprehensive deepening of new economic management methods will make it possible to discover new reserves of the socialist planned economy and will be a powerful lever for accelerating the country's economic development.

Officials Comment on Far East Development Prospects

LD252123 Moscow TASS in English 1928 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS — A further development of the mineral resources of the continental shelf near Sakhalin, Kamchatka, and in the Sea of Okhotsk could become a field of international economic cooperation, believes Aleksandr Granberg, director of the Institute of Economics and Organization of Industrial Production of the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He was addressing here today a press-conference devoted to prospects for the development of Siberia and the Far East.

In the scholar's opinion, international cooperation in developing synthetic fuel on the basis of the Kansk-Achinsk coal basin, a complex use of new kinds of raw materials could be mutually beneficial.

The same can be said about the use of the Baykal-Amur Railway, which is the shortest transport route linking areas near Lake Baykal with the Soviet Pacific coast.

Another participant in the press conference Nikolay Maslennikov, chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Russian Federation, cited as an example the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and business ties with Japan. Wide use is made of Japanese technology in Soviet Pacific ports, in the open-strip mines of the Kansk-Achinsk basin. Contracts on a compensation basis on the working of Siberian timber are successfully implemented. Coastal trade is also developing.

The Soviet participants in the press conference told newsmen about the recent statement by the Soviet Government, stressing the need for strengthening peace in the Asian Pacific region. The drawing of Siberia and the Far East in the process of international division of labour would serve as a stabilising factor, it was stressed at a [as received] press-conference.

Maslennikov Previews Development

LD251418 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0817 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (TASS) — In the next 15 years there will be a significant growth in the contribution made by Siberia and the Far East in providing the national economy of the USSR with fuel and power, mineral raw materials, and timber resources, said Nikolay Maslennikov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee of the RSFSR. He was speaking today at a press conference in Moscow devoted to the main directions of development of production forces and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress in eastern regions envisaged by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

Maslennikov noted that whereas 20 years ago oil recovery in West Siberia was less than 1 million metric tons and gas recovery only 400 million cubic meters, now 368 million metric tons of oil and gas condensate and over 380 billion cubic meters of gas are recovered there. In keeping with the USSR Energy Program, in the future West Siberia will become the country's main center for the recovery of these kinds of raw material. In East Siberia and on the continental shelf, the search for new oil deposits continues.

Concerning the future of coal basins in the east — the Kansk-Achinsk, Kuznetsk, South Yakutia basins — Maslennikov said that the most effective recovery methods — hydrauiic and open cast — will be given priority development. It is intended to organize the integrated industrial processing of coal into solid, liquid, and gaseous types of fuel and valuable chemical raw materials.

The Ust Ilimsk timber complex will become one of the major enterprises of the timber industry of the eastern regions. Some of its facilities are being built jointly with socialist countries which are members of the CEMA.

By the end of the century, Maslennikov continued, the main growth in the production of aluminium, copper, nickel, lead, and other nonferrous metals will be concentrated in these regions. A major ferrous metallurgy base will be developed in the Far East. It will be based on major deposits of iron, manganese, and titanium. This will allow the intensive development of machine-building industries and a significant reduction in the expense of transporting metal from the center of the country.

Lowered Oil Prices Effect on Exports Examined

LD240405 Moscow World Service in English 1550 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpts] In describing Soviet position on foreign economic issues, Western analysts have been stressing two factors. The first one is Soviet oil production which has been steadily decreasing since 1984. The second one is the plummeting world oil prices. Both factors have been described as unfavorable for the Soviet Union, a net oil exporter.

Since early this year, the first factor has lost its glamour as production cuts in Western Siberia, the country's main oil producing area, have been suspended. In fact production has been increased there to a daily quota of 1 million tons. A few days ago, Vasiliy Dinkov, minister of the oil industry of the USSR, was quoted as saying the Siberian oil fields had achieved success which had to be consolidated. The USSR plans to produce 625.640 million tons of oil and condensate in 1990, of which 2/3 will be extracted in Western Siberia.

But the second factor is still at work. As world oil prices have continued to tumble, the plunge has borne a certain impact on the USSR whose oil exports make a substantial share in Soviet foreign trade. And, as Mikhail Gorbachev put it in his interview with the Algerian magazine *REVOLUTION AFRICAINE*, we have certainly been affected by the situation in world markets and lower demand for Soviet exports while inflation has added

to our import costs. As yet, the West's allegation to the effect that the situation is dramatic and threatening to thwart Soviet plans, seems to be a gross exaggeration if only because it ignores the fact that Soviet foreign exchange earnings make only a neglible contribution to the USSR's mammoth economy. With its GNP estimated at R1.4 trillion, the USSR's import costs amount to only 65 billion, with imports from the West, which are paid for in foreign exchange equivalent, totalling less than R20 billion a year. Imported Western equipment does not exceed 3-4 percent of the Soviet output of machinery.

Another thing about the problem is that a good deal of Soviet energy export goes to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance market that has never been subject to convulsions.

Another fact to be taken into consideration is that the USSR abounds, along with energy carriers [as heard], in other minerals. In addition, by the time oil prices began to tumble, the USSR had hed a secure financial position in the world, the fact admitted by all experts. This was what made its standing entirely different from such oil exporters as Mexico, Nigeria, Venezuela, and Indonesia, for which the price collapse meant a disaster. But there is one more difference. While most oil producers export crudes, the USSR has a powerful refining and petrochemical industry. While crudes, gasoline, and fuel oil now trade at near bottom prices, prices for diesel and jet fuel as well as natural gas have not dropped so dramatically, said (Leonard Vid), vice chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee. Our potential is sufficient for withdrawing some resources from the world market, processing them, and allocating other resources. Admittedly oil market jitters failed to have a dramatic impact on the Soviet economy. Oil prices will certainly start to climb in the future, though it would make no sense to predict when. But there is one way in which the Soviet Union can benefit from the market behavior; by using it to stimulate the restructuring of its exports. No wonder one of the major economic goals chartered by the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party is to reorient our exports from raw materials to manufactured commodities.

Soviet automobiles, machine tools, watches, tractors, instruments, and energy generating equipment exported to the West indicate to the USSR's ability to manufacture competitive goods. But they are still a far cry from what the country really can export in terms of quality and quantity. It takes time to develop a country's export potential, and yet the USSR does not intend to let things proceed at a slow pace. For one thing, it will increase sharply the share of manufacturing industries, the engineering industry above all, in the overall industrial investment program. Most of the money will be spent on retooling the existing plant which is expected to pay off quicker than building new factories. In 1986 to 1990 this country will spend over R200 billion on industrial modernization, much more than in the past 10 years. For another, there will be drastic reforms in management and transformation, with more incentives to be offered to the staff. A new system of incentives has been introduced to encourage factories to produce more competitive goods for export. Factories have also been given a larger share of foreign exchange earned by their goods, which they can spend more freely than before.

And yet it would be erroneous to think that the USSR will quit the energy market. If market conditions improve, the Soviet Union will be prepared to boost its gas, electric energy, coal, and coal products exports.

Briefs

Gold Extraction Industry — A new branch of the national economy, the gold extraction industry, has been created in Kirghizia. A state commission has accepted for use the first stage of the Kirghiz gold-mining combine. This enterprise has been erected in the harsh conditions of the high mountains. A well-appointed miners' settlement has grown up alongside the industrial buildings. The first community services center in the region is already functioning, and there is a cosy cafe and a kindergarten; a school and hospital complex are under construction. The development of the social and consumer services complex is progressing rapidly. The combine will begin complete operation by the end of the year. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 1 Apr 86 LD*]

New Airport — A new airport has been handed over for use in Staryy Oskol, the miners' and metallurgists' town. Yak-40 and L-410 aircraft will leave for their first flight to Moscow. There will also be a permanent air link with Belgorod, the administrative center of the iron ore region. It is planned to open air routes to other towns in the near future. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 1 Apr 86 LD*]

Working Day 11 May — The USSR Council of Ministers has decided that 11 May 1986 is to be considered as a working day. The day of rest unused by workers and office workers will be added to their annual leave and will be paid on the same basis as leave days. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Apr 86 LD*]

Dump Truck for Siberia — Production of new models of dump trucks has been mastered by the workers of the Kremenchug Avtokraz production association. The trucks have been specially developed for operation in the Siberian oil and gas fields. The truck is a heavy-load, all-round drive, diesel-engined vehicle. Without any halt in production the building of the enterprise's workshops is under way. Automated lines and machining centers have appeared in place of the old cumbersome machine tools. A widespread application of up-to-date welding, cold forging, and powder metallurgy methods is being made. In the 12th 5-Year Plan period the association intends to convert completely to the production of the new KRAZ models. [Summary] [*Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Mar 86 LD*]

Progress of Spring Sowing Campaign Reviewed
PM291245 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Apr 86 p 1

[Report by N. Osychkin: "Sowing in a Shock Manner!"]

[Text] According to Central Statistical Administration figures as of 21 April spring crops on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at interfarm enterprises had been sown over an area of 26.2 million hectares. The workers of the agro-industrial complex, together with the entire Soviet people, are advancing to greet May Day. They are directing all their efforts toward the successful execution of the spring field work, the creation of a reliable basis for the harvest of the first year of the new 5-year plan, and the fulfillment of the targets of the Food Program. The sowing campaign has been launched in virtually all the union republics.

Despite the late spring in a number of regions, the pace of the work is somewhat faster than last year. The farms of the Ukraine, Moldavia, the North Caucasus, and Central Asia have completed the spring crop sowing. Last week there was abundant rainfall in many places there; the fields are covered in green shoots and the winter grain crops have reached their full height. At the same time, in some southern regions the spring has failed to gratify the arable farmers' needs for rain and there have been hot winds, which requires once more that the closest attention be paid to the conservation of moisture in the soil and the rational use of moisture for accumulating the maximum yield on each hectare.

The borders of the sowing campaign have advanced to the Central Chernozem, Belorussia, and the Volga Region. The fall-plowed fallow is being harrowed in the south Urals and Siberia. The unsettled weather is forcing the arable farmers to compress to the minimum the time taken over spring work and to achieve the best quality for soil preparation and sowing. That is how the collectives of the sowing complexes of Belgorod Oblast are operating. They needed just days to sow the early spring crops over the entire area. Success has been promoted by precise schedules for the use of units and by team contracts. In the RSFSR as a whole spring crops cover 8 million hectares. The Voronezh, Kursk, and Tambov oblast machine operators are launching the sowing harmoniously. The teams and links of the farms of Ulyanovsk and Penza oblasts are driving the units onto the land.

The farms of the Ukraine are sowing spring crops on the 11 millionth hectare. This year the republic has steered a course toward achieving good results in the development of arable production through the massive introduction of intensive technologies. The area covered by these technologies is in excess of 9 million hectares. This will make it possible to collect at least 6.3 million metric tons of additional grain. The sowing of late crops is now under way and the treatment of the winter crops according to their development stages has begun. The industrial enterprises have produced a number of effective attachments for the better performance of technological operations on the field. They include colters for the SES-2.1 drill for the local application of fertilizers. As a rule, first-class seeds are used for sowing.

While noting these positive phenomena in the struggle for the harvest, we cannot fail to note the fact that the leaders of some farms are being slow to restructure the style of their work, are clinging to outdated technologies, and are failing to observe the optimum work schedules. Such instances are occurring in Khmelnitskiy Oblast. The imeni Ilicha and "Peremoga" kolkhozes, Volochisskiy Rayon (the chairmen are Ye. Lisinchuk and I. Korch) have delayed the start of the sowing and are violating the requirements of agrotechnics. The Novoushitskiy Rayon "Ukraina" Kolkhoz and the Gorodokskiy Rayon "Progress" Kolkhoz have allowed spoilage on the spring fields. Examining the progress of the sowing campaign, the party obkom has pointed to these grave shortcomings. At the same time, it has failed to make adequate demands on the leaders of the oblast agro-industrial committee and rayon agro-industrial associations that are organizing work on the field poorly, are substituting fussing with the holding of sessions for vital business, and have failed to become vigorous cahampions of intensive production methods. Thus, the oblast's beet cultivation continues to rely on manual labor, which leads to the reduction of harvests and the growth of expenditure per unit of output.

In Kazakhstan the spring crops already cover over 1.3 million hectares. In the south of the republic rice and row crops are being sown while the machine operators of the virgin land oblasts are preparing the soil for the main food crop — wheat. A characteristic feature of the sowing campaign on the Belorussian fields is the mass transition of teams and links to the collective contract and financial autonomy, which will make it possible to improve the quality and accelerate the tempo of work. Thus, while formerly the Grodno Oblast Yakub Kolas Kolkhoz needed a week to prepare the soil and sow 100 hectares, it now needs only 3 days.

Now that the spring has put a premium on the time assigned to the arable farmers for laying the foundation to the harvest, it is particularly important to take advantage of every hour of fine weather and to perform all field work comprehensively. In the south of the country corn is being sown for grain. It already covers 745,000 hectares — 16 percent of the plan. Nearly 1.5 million hectares have been sown to sunflowers. Sugar beet seeds have been sown on 1.6 million hectares — 47 percent of the plan. In the Kuban, and Dnepropetrovsk and Kharkov oblasts the units have been driven from the land. Because of the rainy weather work has been somewhat delayed on the beet plantations of the Central Chernozem. The cotton sowing plan has been fulfilled 87 percent. A busy time is arriving for the flax, potato, and vegetable growers and horticulturalists. Feed crops have been sown on 4 million hectares.

The farm and agro-industrial committee leaders and party organizations are called on to punctiliously approach the observance of the technologies adopted in the spring period, to ensure that the crop structure is strictly kept to, and to ensure that the magnitude of the sown areas ensures the unconditional fulfillment of state plans for the production and procurement of output from all crops. Unfortunately, in a number of places this rule is not being considered. There are instances of the unjustified reduction of grain crop sowings, including sowings of comestible wheat. For incomprehensible reasons the area sown to buckwheat is being reduced by 150,000 hectares, particularly in the RSFSR, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Moldavia. Yet the demand for grain from this crop is still not being met and, according to the 5-year plan targets, areas sown to buckwheat

must be expanded and its yield must be increased. With a view to encouraging production, proposals have been made for using 30 percent of the harvest of buckwheat, beans, and lentils obtained over and above the level achieved for sale locally to meet local needs.

The spring sowing is a crucial stage in the work of the agro-industrial complex workers. All those involved in it must work precisely and strictly observe technological and state discipline. Yet this has not been understood everywhere. The Estonian "Estonfosforit" production association has delivered just 130 metric tons of superphosphate to the Ryazan Oblast farms — 7 percent of funded [fondovyye] deliveries. The Volkhov aluminum plan is holding up the delivery of chemical output. The farms which cultivate grain and industrial crops using intensive technologies are experiencing a shortage of precision drills, cultivators, and working parts for them.

Time does not wait. Sowing within the optimum deadlines and to an excellent standard means raising a good harvest in the initial year of the 5-year plan.

Agricultural Developments for 23-24 April Reported

LD250210 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 23-24 April. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

23 April

Sowing of cotton has been completed in Turkmenistan. In the last 5-Year Plan period the republic did not fulfill its plan for the production of fine-fiber cotton. Specialists concluded that one reason for this was late sowing. It was decided to correct that problem. (0000 GMT)

Spring sowing is coming to an end in the orchards of Moldavia. It is taking place on areas where low-yield trees or ones of the same type are being cleared. (0000 GMT)

Mass spring field work is under way in Kuybyshev Oblast. Fallow is being plowed. So far moisture has been retained on 500,000 hectares. A number of rayons have started sowing early spring crops. (0204 GMT)

Mass sowing of spring crops is under way in Tambov Oblast, in spite of unusually dry, windy days. The rates of sowing are much higher than last year, and work is now going on in the north of the area. (0204 GMT)

The sowing of crops has begun at Lithuania's kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This year the grain growers have pledged to achieve an average yield of 28-29 quintals of grain per hectare. (1800 GMT)

Rice sowing has begun in the zone of the North Crimean canal. Machine operators at farms plan to carry it out in 10-12 days. Rice grown in conditions of the Crimea gives up to 50-60 quintals per hectare. This spring all rice-sowing farms are using intensive technology methods on an overall area of almost 19,000 hectares. (2230 GMT)

24 April

Sowing of spring crops has started in Tataria. (0430 GMT)

Assembly of "Steppe" self-propelled reapers has begun at Pavlodar Lenin Tractor Works Association. The width of span of these reapers is 17 meters, virtually three times the normal width. They can cut grain crops, corn, and many grasses. The first 500 such reapers are now to be made at the Pavlodar works. (0600 GMT)

Early grain crop sowing has begun in Gorkiy Oblast; ear crops are to be sown on more than 500,000 hectares this spring. (0600 GMT)

Virtually all Saratov Oblast rayons have begun sowing barley, oats, and perennial grasses. Top-dressing of winter crops is also continuing. The crops, which cover approximately 800,000 hectares, are developing well. (0600 GMT)

Mass spring crop sowing is under way throughout Kirghizia. So far, grain, vegetable, and cucurbitaceous crops, and perennial grasses have been sown on 400,000 hectares — two-thirds of the planned area. (1330 GMT)

Mass harvesting of grasses, perko, and rape has started in Kirghiz valleys. Intermediate fodder crops now cover about 7,000 hectares of pastureland in the republic. (1330 GMT)

On 20 and 21 April, violent storms swept the maritime and adjacent upland regions of Dagestan. The vegetable growers were badly hit, with hothouses damaged on an an area of more than 2,000 hectares. Today, the inhabitants of rural areas are everywhere busy repairing the damage and restoring the fertile layer of the soil. The irrigation network is being cleared. The fields, orchards, vineyards, and market-gardens are now very much in need of water. (Moscow Television 24 Apr 86 1700 GMT)

Farms in the Mari nonchernozem zone have started to apply additional fertilizer on a large scale to winter crops and perennial grasses. Intensive technology will be used in the cultivation of a significant proportion of the grain crops this year. Aircraft are assisting the farmers. (2004 GMT)